federal register

Thursday
March 12, 1992

Part II

Department of Education

Rehabilitation Long-Term Training; Final Priorities and Invitation for Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1992; Notices

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Rehabilitation Long-Term Training

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities for Fiscal Year 1992.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces priorities for fiscal year 1992 under the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program. The Secretary takes this action to focus Federal financial assistance on academic and non-academic training in areas of personnel shortages in the field of rehabilitation, as identified through data collection, analysis, needs assessments, and professional literature. These priorities are intended to increase the number of qualified rehabilitation professionals serving the State-Federal program of vocational rehabilitation (VR) for individuals with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program and these final priorities support AMERICA 2000, the President's strategy for moving the Nation toward the National Education Goals, by providing training for vocational rehabilitation personnel to upgrade their skills and thereby assist individuals with disabilities in improving their skills. National Education Goal 5 specifically calls for every adult American to be literate and to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

EFFECTIVE DATES: These priorities take effect either 45 days after publication in the **Federal Register** or later if the Congress takes certain adjournments. If you want to know the effective date of these priorities, call or write the Department of Education contact person.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Melia, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3324 Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202–2649. Telephone: (202) 732–1400. Deaf and hearing impaired individuals may call the Federal Daul Party Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 (in the Washington, DC 202 area code, telephone 708–9300) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program is authorized by Title III, section 304 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Under this discretionary grant program, Federal support may be provided for the purpose of academic and non-academic training in areas of personnel shortages relating to the provision of vocational, medical, social, and psychological rehabilitation services.

The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program provides financial assistance for—(1) projects that provide basic or advanced training leading to an academic degree in designated fields of study related to vocational rehabilitation; (2) projects that provide a number of interrelated training activities designed to improve the professional competence of employed rehabilitation workers in one of the designated fields but not directly related to the awarding of an academic degree; (3) projects that provide undergraduate medical students with an orientation to the concepts and techniques of rehabilitation medicine; and (4) projects that provide support for medical residents enrolled in residency training programs in the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

On November 22, 1991 the Secretary published a notice of proposed priorities for this program in the **Federal Register** [56 FR 59164].

Note: This notice of final priorities does not solicit applications.

Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to the Secretary's invitation in the notice of proposed priorities, eight parties submitted comments. An analysis of the comments follows. Please note that this section addresses only those proposed priorities on which substantive comments were received or priorities that have been substantively changed as a result of the Secretary's review. Technical and other minor changes—and suggested changes the Secretary is not legally authorized to make under the applicable statutory authority—are not addressed.

Absolute Priority 2—Client Assistance—Projects of National Scope

Comments: Two of the commenters recommended that training to Client Assistance Program (CAP) personnel should be provided by an agency or organization that has demonstrated experience in this area.

Discussion: With regard to the agency or organization that will provide training to CAP personnel, the Secretary does not want to limit the applicants for this category. Selection criteria for these projects in 34 CFR 385.32(b), 385.32(e), 386.30(b), and 386.30(e) require that the applicant demonstrate the quality of key personnel and adequacy of resources to carry out the program. In addition, 34 CFR 385.33(b) allows the Secretary to consider the past performance of an applicant in carrying out similar projects.

Changes: None.

Comments: Six commenters suggested that CAP program personnel receive on-going technical assistance. In addition, four of the parties recommended that a center be specifically established to provide the technical assistance.

Discussion: Under the long-term training program a grantee is not prohibited from providing technical assistance to CAP personnel. However, the provision of technical assistance with regard to compliance with Federal mandates for CAP programs is the responsibility of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) through its regional offices. Additionally, the provision of technical assistance by a long-term training grantee would not encompass the use of on-site "peer reviews" since on-site monitoring is also the role of the RSA regional offices.

In addition, the regulations governing the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program in 34 CFR part 386 do not permit funds to be used for the establishment of a center for technical assistance.

Changes: None.

Comments: One commenter noted the need to coordinate training and technical assistance activities funded by RSA with similar training and technical assistance activities funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Discussion: RSA already coordinates and exchanges information with the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and the National Institute of Mental Health through its participation on the Advocacy Subcommittee of the Interagency Committee on Developmental Disabilities.

Changes: None.

Comments: One commenter suggested that the training provided to the CAP personnel include information about specific disabilities as well as the latest information on technology and equipment.

Discussion: The training proposed for CAP personnel in the notice of proposed priorities published in the **Federal Register** (56 FR 59164) on November 22, 1991, was based on input on training needs from CAP agencies. The CAPs will be able to identify other specific training needs in RSA's 1992 training needs assessment.

Changes: None.

Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and 34 CFR 386.1, the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under these competitions only

applications that meet one of these absolute priorities:

Absolute Priority 1—Rehabilitation Counseling—Doctoral Level Programs

Background

The 1989 National Survey of Personnel Shortages and Training Needs in Vocational Rehabilitation study by Pelavin Associates (September, 1989) identified significant shortages of rehabilitation counselors employed by State VR agencies and other service providers. The study recommended targeting training for rehabilitation counseling as a major priority. At the Department of Education public meeting on the Rehabilitation Training Program (May 9, 1991), several presenters (State agencies and universities) indicated that faculty available to train new counselors is dwindling in number. Many of the master's level programs in Rehabilitation Counseling began over 25 years ago, and many of the faculty and department heads are nearing retirement. Therefore, doctoral level Rehabilitation Counseling programs are needed to train a new generation of faculty and administrators for university-based programs as well as State VR agencies and other related agencies and nonprofit organizations servicing individuals with severe disabilities.

Priority

Projects must prepare doctoral graduates to serve as faculty in institutions training vocational rehabilitation professionals for service in the State-Federal VR program and prepare doctoral graduates to serve in leadership positions in the State-Federal VR program. Programs must include training in teaching skills, research, and rehabilitation administration.

Absolute Priority 2—Client Assistance—Projects of National Scope

Background

Client Assistance Programs (CAPs) are authorized under section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act), and the regulations in 34 CFR part 370 to—(1) provide assistance in informing and advising individuals who are seeking or receiving services under the Act of all available benefits under the Act; (2) assist those individuals in their relationships with projects, programs, and facilities providing services to them under the Act; and (3) provide information on available services under the Act to any individual with a disability in the State. In addition, CAPs are authorized to help individuals with disabilities understand rehabilitation services programs under the Act; help individuals with disabilities by pursuing, or assisting them in pursuing, legal, administrative, and other available remedies if necessary to ensure the protection of their rights under the Act; advise State and other agencies of identified problem areas in the delivery of rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities and suggest methods and means of improving agency performance; and provide information to the public concerning the client assistance program.

The Department of Education public meeting on the Rehabilitation Training Program (May 9, 1991) and written comments received in response to a notice in the **Federal Register** (May 1, 1991) included statements regarding the training needs of CAP personnel. These needs included additional training in topic areas such as client and counselor issue identification; analysis of service delivery problems; problem-solving; mediation, negotiation, and dispute resolution; and techniques to address system-level issues.

Priority

Projects must provide training to administrative and service delivery personnel employed by CAPs in areas related to the needs identified in the background section of this priority. Projects must be national in scope. Projects can provide training through a national seminar or workshop or a structured series or regional seminars of workshops.

Absolute Priority 3—Other Fields Contributing to the Rehabilitation of Individuals With Handicaps, Especially Individuals With Severe Handicaps, Including Homebound or Institutionalized Individuals—National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials

Background

RSA has funded a clearinghouse for rehabilitation training materials since 1961. Over the years, the clearinghouse has facilitated the development and dissemination of material with potential use in the training of rehabilitation personnel. Regulations for the Rehabilitation Training Program in 34 CFR 385.42 state that "a set of any training materials developed under the Rehabilitation Training Program must be submitted to any information clearinghouse designated by the Secretary." The project awarded under this priority will be designated to receive training materials developed during the project's duration. Users of the clearinghouse cover the range of rehabilitation professionals, but most frequently include State VR agency personnel, other rehabilitation counselors, rehabilitation educators, and rehabilitation facility personnel.

Priority

Projects must establish a national clearinghouse of rehabilitation training materials. Projects must—(1) identify and gather rehabilitation information and training materials for use in preparing pre-service and post-employment education and training for rehabilitation personnel; and (2) disseminate, in a cost-effective manner, rehabilitation information and training materials for use in preparing pre-service and post-employment training education and training for rehabilitation personnel.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR parts 385 and 386.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 774.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.129, Rehabilitation Long-Term Training)

Dated: March 3, 1992.

Lamar Alexander,

Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. 92-5748 Filed 3-11-92; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.129]

Rehabilitation Long-Term Training; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1992

Purpose of Program: To provide grants to increase the supply of qualified personnel available for employment in public and private agencies and institutions involved in the vocational rehabilitation and independent living rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities, especially those individuals

with the most severe disabilities, and to maintain and upgrade the skills and knowledge of personnel employed as providers of vocational, social, or psychological rehabilitation services.

The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program supports AMERICA 2000, the President's strategy for moving the Nation toward the National Education Goals, by providing training for vocational rehabilitation personnel to upgrade their skills and thereby assist individuals with disabilities in improving their skills. National Education Goal 5 specifically calls for every adult American to be literate and to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Eligible Applicants: State agencies and other public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, are eligible to apply for awards under this program.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 8, 1992.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 8, 1992.

Applications Available: March 19, 1992.

Available Funds: $700,000.

Awards are to be made in three absolute priority categories. Specific information regarding the available funds, estimated average size of awards, estimated number of awards, and estimated range of awards for each category appears in the chart in this notice.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR parts 385 and 386.

Priorities: The priorities in the notice of the final priorities for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, apply to these competitions.

For Applications or Information Contact: Bruce Rose, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3320, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202–2649. To request an application, call (202) 732–1325. Deaf and hard of hearing persons may call the Federal Dual Party Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 (in the Washington, DC 202 area code, telephone 708–9300) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Eastern time.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 774.

Dated: March 6, 1992.

Robert R. Davila,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

REHABILITATION LONG-TERM TRAINING

CFDA No.	Categories	Available funds	Estimated average size of awards	Estimated number of awards	Estimated range of awards
84.129B–3	Rehabilitation counseling—doctoral level program	$300,000	$60,000	5	$50,000–70,000
84.129S	Other fields contributing to the rehabilitation of individuals with handicaps, especially individuals with severe handicaps, including homebound or institutionalized individuals—national clearinghouse of rehabilitation training materials.	200,000	200,000	1	200,000
84.129S–3	Client assistance—projects of national scope	200,000	100,000	2	90,000–110,000

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